

**Testimony of Marie C. O'Brien, President, Connecticut Development Authority  
To the Commerce Committee**

March 8, 2011

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**Raised Bill No. 6526, AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER**

Thank you for the opportunity to **support Raised Bill 6526, AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER.**

We are pleased that this committee and the Legislature continue to review Connecticut's brownfield programs. As always, CDA is firmly committed to working with the Legislature and our other state partners to continuously improve the brownfield revitalization process. We believe that sections of this bill will enhance the state's ability to more productively place current brownfield properties back on the grand lists thus producing real revenue to the State of Connecticut and its municipalities, while adhering to smart growth goals and principles. More collaboration among all of the state's stakeholders should make the process more streamlined and efficient.

We all will be helped by amending the definitions of "brownfields" and "municipality" as it relates to this bill. We support eliminating the fees when applying and qualifying for a Covenant Not to Sue from the DEP.

CDA and its subsidiary, the Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority, both play an important role in financing projects and supporting developers that remediate, redevelop, and productively re-use brownfield sites across the state. CDA has always had staff dedicated solely to brownfields because we recognize the importance of brownfield remediation to economic development and smart growth. CDA will continue to apply its financial expertise, including its flexible programs and proven ability to leverage private capital, to the state's brownfields initiative. We continue to rely on smart growth principles as decision-making criteria.

In closing, CDA looks forward to working with this Committee on these and any other brownfields bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.